



National Employment Law Project

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February 24, 2014

The Honorable Carlo Leone  
The Honorable Jack Hennessy  
Co-Chairs  
Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Room 509A, Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Leone and Representative Hennessy:

On behalf of the National Employment Law Project (NELP), I write to express my organization's support of SB-0212, An Act Concerning Implementation of the Recommendations of the Military Occupational Specialty Task Force.

NELP is a national policy and advocacy organization that works to restore the promise of economic opportunity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. With a staff of attorneys and policy analysts, and in partnership with national, state and local allies, we promote policies and programs that create good jobs, strengthen upward mobility, enforce hard-won worker rights, and help unemployed workers regain their economic footing through improved benefits and services.

Our organization stands behind our veterans, our military spouses, and Connecticut. We believe this bill is an important and vital measure toward reducing veterans' and military spouses' chronic underemployment in Connecticut. These veterans and spouses bring stellar technical training and education with them to the state. Currently, that expertise is going to waste while veterans and military spouses satisfy redundant training and licensing requirements or choose to take jobs far below their qualifications. By requiring state agencies and educational institutions to appropriately credit military experience, this bill will help to harness veterans' and spouses' prior experience to strengthen Connecticut's economy. We also support the bill as a measure that demonstrates our state's commitment to those that have already committed themselves to public service.

We are grateful to the Veterans' Affairs Committee for proposing the bill and raising awareness of the particular barriers to employment and education that continue to face veterans and military spouses. On behalf of NELP, we urge the committee and legislature to vote in favor of SB-0212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tsedeye A. Gebreselassie".

Tsedeye Gebreselassie  
Staff Attorney  
National Employment Law Project